



STATE OF NEVADA  
**STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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**MINUTES**  
**STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Tuesday, June 27, 2006**  
**USDA Elko Field Office**  
**555 W. Silver Street**  
**Elko, NV**

**MEMBERS PRESENT** Chairman-James Settelmeyer, Carson Valley CD; Vice-Chairman-Keith Whipple, Lincoln County CD; Joe Sicking, Paradise Valley CD; Vance Vesco, Big Meadow CD; Howard Glancy, Dayton Valley CD; Ed Foster (For Don Henderson), NDOA

**MEMBERS ABSENT** Judy Currier, CD of Southern Nevada; Sterling Wines, White Pine CD; Rangesan Narayanan-Associate Dean, UNR College of Agriculture

**OTHERS PRESENT** Pamela B. Wilcox, Executive Secretary to the Commission; Kelly McGowan, Nevada Division of Conservation Districts; Misty Calestini, Nevada Division of Conservation Districts; Chris Freeman-President, Nevada Association of Conservation Districts; Peggy Hughes, NRCS; Eleanor O'Donnell, ECACD; Rick Orr, NRCS;

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

A. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 27, 2006 by Chairman James Settelmeyer. Self introductions were made by those present.

**II. REVIEW, AMENDMENT AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA – \*ACTION\***

A. After reviewing the agenda, Joe Sicking made a motion to approve the agenda, Keith Whipple seconded the motion, motion passed.

**III. REVIEW, AMENDMENT AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES - \*ACTION\***

A. After reviewing the minutes, Keith Whipple made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, Howard Glancy seconded the motion, motion passed.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

A. No public comments

**V. DIVISION REPORTS TO THE COMMISSION**

A. *Status Reports:*

1. *Fiscal Report*- Pamela B. Wilcox- Ms. Wilcox reviewed the division's FY 06 budget with the commission.
2. *General Correspondence* - Ms. Wilcox was pleased to announce the Administrative Assistant II position has been filled with the Division of Conservation Districts.
3. *Conservation Districts Meeting Logs*- Kelly McGowan – Kelly reviewed the agenda and minutes logs with the commission and stated the importance of getting them in on time. Kelly also informed the commission that our web site is updated the first week of the month with all agendas and minutes received in the office. We will attempt to post all received budgets, work plans, annual and financial reports on the the web site.
4. *General Correspondence*-
  - a. Kelly reviewed packet contents mailed to the commissioners.
  - b. Kelly also composed a letter to each of the districts explaining that draft minutes are acceptable.
  - c. Response to the funding questionnaire was favorable with 15 of the 28 districts responding.
  - d. Kelly reviewed the letter we received requiring district officials and employees to go through FBI background checks if they are using NRCS inter-net systems. The commission requested that a letter be drafted to Richard Vigil at NRCS asking about funding and who will be required to have the finger printing and background check done.

VI. **REPORTS TO THE COMMISSION**

*Department of Conservation & Natural Resources* – Allen Biaggi was not present.

*Department of Agriculture* – Ed Foster for Don Henderson, Director.

- a. Ed reported on mormon cricket spraying by the NDA that has been in place since March 2006.
- b. NDOT weed crews out of Winnemucca are spraying noxious weeds on state right-of-ways.
- c. 4<sup>th</sup> year of West Nile Virus testing; 2 positive cases this year.
- d. 2 positive cases of Avian Influenza found in March 2006 (Not high pathogen strain).
- e. Ed explained that participation in the Weed free forage program.
- f. \$40,000 grant was received for bio-control for leafy spurge in Elko and goat head in Yerington and Reno.
- g. An abatement process has been set up to enforce land owners to control noxious weeds.

*University of Nevada, Reno* - Dr. Rangesan Narayanan was not present.

*Natural Resource Conservation Service* – Peggy Hughes reported on behalf of Richard Vigil.

- a. Peggy reviewed various projects NRCS is involved with at this time, EQIP, WHIP, and CSP.
- b. At this time 53% of funds have been used.
- c. Energy initiative program offering a 15% incentive to land owners for completing EQIP projects has been extended to September 1, 2006.

*Farm Service Agency* – Roger Van Valkenburg was not present.

*Nevada Association of Conservation Districts* - President, Chris Freeman.

- a. Eight districts have not yet paid dues. Those districts are:  
Carson Valley, Lamoille, Mason Valley, Northeast Elko, Paradise, Quinn, Vya and Washoe.
- b. Range Camp cook John Adams passed away a week before camp and Chris took over the cooking duties for this year's campers.
- c. Chris and Kelly attended the Washington DC meeting in March and were very successful in meeting with senators, congressmen and their staff.
- d. Chris and Kelly also attended the Pacific Region and Southwest Region annual NACD Conference in Boise. The main topic of discussion was combining the Pacific, Southwest, and Great Plains regions to make administration easier for NACD.
- e. The next annual NvACD meeting will be October 24-25, 2006 in Elko, NV.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS- \*ACTION\***

- A. The Commission reviewed the action taken by the Owyhee Conservation District to expend all held over funding to purchase a grassland seeder. Keith Whipple made a motion to accept and Joe Sicking seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- B. Commission reviewed updates to their strategic plan. After reviewing, the commission recommended an additional box to track items in progress. James Settelmeyer made the suggestion. No action was taken.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. *Review compliance of districts to Open Meeting Law and review of district meeting logs:*** **\*ACTION\***

1. A lengthy discussion ensued about what the division and commission could do to improve district awareness of policy of having minutes submitted within 30 days of meeting. James Settelmeyer asked staff to draft a letter and send to the districts stating the importance of having the minutes submitted in a timely manner.

### **B. *Review of conservation districts' budgets. Determination of compliance of budgets with legal requirements:***

1. Big Meadow – Keith Whipple motioned to approve their budget with clarification of income amounts and balance. Joe Sicking seconded the motion. Motion passed.
2. Carson Valley – Joe Sicking motioned to approve their budget. Keith Whipple seconded the motion. Keith Whipple amended the motion after seeing an incorrect date. Vance Vesco seconded the motion. Motion passed.
3. CD of Southern NV – Joe Sicking motioned to approve their budget. Vance Vesco seconded the motion. Motion passed.
4. Clover Valley – Vance Vesco motioned to approve their budget. Howard Glancy seconded the motion. Motion passed.
5. Dayton Valley – Keith Whipple motioned to approve their budget. Joe Sicking seconded the motion. Motion passed.

6. Duck Valley – Joe Sicking motioned to approve their budget. Keith Whipple seconded the motion. Motion passed.
7. Esmeralda County – Keith Whipple motioned to approve their budget. Joe Sicking seconded the motion. Motion passed.
8. Eureka – Vance Vesco motioned to approve their budget. Howard Glancy seconded the motion. Motion passed.
9. Jiggs – Joe Sicking motioned to approve their budget. Keith Whipple seconded the motion. Motion passed.
10. Lahontan – Joe Sicking made a motion to ask for clarification on date typo and in-kind expenditures. Keith Whipple seconded the motion. Motion passed.
11. Lamoille – Joe Sicking motioned to approve their budget. Keith Whipple seconded the motion. Motion passed.
12. Lander County – Vance Vesco made a motion for clarification on carry-over-funds. Howard Glancy seconded the motion. Motion passed.
13. Lincoln County – Vance Vesco motioned to approve their budget. Joe Sicking seconded the motion. Motion passed.
14. Mason Valley – Joe Sicking motioned to approve their budget. Vance Vesco seconded the motion. Motion passed.
15. Nevada Tahoe – Joe Sicking motioned to approve their budget. Vance Vesco seconded the motion. Motion passed.
16. Northeast Elko – Joe Sicking made a motion for clarification on dues. Keith Whipple seconded the motion. Motion passed.
17. Owyhee – Keith Whipple motioned to approve their budget. Joe Sicking seconded the motion. Motion passed.
18. Paradise-Sonoma – Keith Whipple motioned to approve their budget. Howard Glancy seconded the motion. Motion passed.
19. Quinn River – Joe Sicking motioned to approve their budget. Keith Whipple seconded the motion. Motion passed.
20. Ruby Valley – Keith Whipple motioned to approve their budget. Vance Vesco seconded the motion. Motion passed.
21. Smith Valley – Vance Vesco motioned to approve their budget. Howard Glancy seconded the motion. Motion passed.
22. Southern Nye County – Keith Whipple made a motion for clarification on \$18,000 Grant and donations totaling \$1950.00. Joe Sicking seconded the motion. Motion passed.
23. Starr Valley – Keith Whipple motioned to approve their budget. Vance Vesco seconded the motion. Motion passed.
24. Stillwater – Joe Sicking motioned to approve their budget. Keith Whipple seconded the motion. Motion passed.
25. Tonopah – Joe Sicking made a motion to approve their budget. Howard Glancy seconded the motion. Motion passed.
26. Vya – Joe Sicking made a motion for clarification for match-in-kind. Vance Vesco seconded the motion. Motion passed.
27. Washoe Storey – Keith Whipple motioned to approve their budget. Howard Glancy seconded the motion. Motion passed.
28. White Pine – Joe Sicking motioned to approve their budget. Keith Whipple seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**C. Review of conservation districts' work plans. Determination of compliance of work plans with legal requirements: \*ACTION\***

1. Big Meadow – Joe Sicking motioned to approve their work plan. Howard Glancy seconded the motion. Motion passed.
2. Carson Valley – Joe Sicking motioned to approve their work plan. Keith Whipple seconded the motion. Motion passed.
3. CD of Southern NV – Joe Sicking motioned to approve their work plan. Vance Vesco seconded the motion. Motion passed.
4. Clover Valley – Joe Sicking motioned to approve their work plan. Howard Glancy seconded the motion. Motion passed.
5. Dayton Valley – Joe Sicking motioned to approve their work plan. Keith Whipple seconded the motion. Motion passed.
6. Duck Valley – Keith Whipple motioned to approve their work plan. Joe Sicking seconded the motion. Motion passed.
7. Esmeralda County – Joe Sicking motioned to approve their work plan. Howard Glancy seconded the motion. Motion passed.
8. Eureka – Keith Whipple motioned to approve their work plan. Joe Sicking seconded the motion. Motion passed.
9. Jiggs – Vance Vesco motioned to approve their work plan. Joe Sicking seconded the motion. Motion passed.
10. Lahontan – Keith Whipple motioned to approve the work plan. Howard Glancy seconded the motion. Motion passed.
11. Lamoille – Keith Whipple motioned to approve their work plan. Vance Vesco seconded the motion. Motion passed.
12. Lander County – Joe Sicking motioned to approve their work plan. Howard Glancy seconded the motion. Motion passed.
13. Lincoln County – Howard Glancy motioned to approve their work plan. Joe Sicking seconded the motion. Motion passed.
14. Mason Valley – Joe Sicking motioned to approve their work plan. Keith Whipple seconded the motion. Motion passed.
15. Nevada Tahoe – Joe Sicking motioned to approve their work plan. Keith Whipple seconded the motion. Motion passed.
16. Northeast Elko – Joe Sicking motioned to approve their work plan. Keith Whipple seconded the motion. Motion passed.
17. Owyhee – Howard Glancy motioned to approve their work plan. Vance Vesco seconded the motion. Motion passed.
18. Paradise-Sonoma – Vance Vesco motioned to approve their work plan. Keith Whipple seconded the motion. Motion passed.
19. Quinn River – Howard Glancy motioned to approve their work plan. Vance Vesco seconded the motion. Motion passed.
20. Ruby Valley – Keith Whipple motioned to approve their work plan. Joe Sicking seconded the motion. Motion passed.
21. Smith Valley – Joe Sicking motioned to approve their work plan. Keith Whipple seconded the motion. Motion passed.
22. Southern Nye County – Howard Glancy motioned to approve their work plan. Vance Vesco seconded the motion. Motion passed.
23. Starr Valley – Vance Vesco motioned to approve their work plan. Howard Glancy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

24. Stillwater – Joe Sicking motioned to approve their work plan. Keith Whipple seconded the motion. Motion passed.
25. Tonopah – Keith Whipple made a motion to approve their work plan and to commend them on their format. Joe Sicking seconded the motion. Motion passed.
26. Vya – Howard Glancy motioned to approve their work plan. Vance Vesco seconded the motion. Motion passed.
27. Washoe Storey – Vance Vesco motioned to approve their work plan. Joe Sicking seconded the motion. Motion passed.
28. White Pine – Keith Whipple motioned to approve their work plan. Howard Glancy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**D. Preliminary finding of “Good Standing” status of conservation districts. \*ACTION\***

Keith Whipple motioned to preliminarily find all 28 districts in good standing with the commission. The commission asked staff to seek clarification from some of the districts as noted above in items B. and C. Joe Sicking seconded. Motion passed.

**E. Preliminary designation of conservation districts eligible for commission grants in FY 2007: \*ACTION\***

After reviewing good standing status of each conservation district, the commission found all districts eligible for a grant. Keith Whipple motioned to approve districts’ eligibility. Joe Sicking seconded. Motion passed.

**F. Proposed changes to NAC 548.110 (5.) to reconcile with the language in NRS 548.285(3.): \*ACTION\***

The commission reviewed the proposed changes in regard to the election of supervisors and the dates on which district elections must be held. Joe Sicking motioned to approve the change. Keith Whipple seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**G. Discuss the possibility of the Nevada Division of Conservation Districts’ administration Of the Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Farm and Ranchland Reserve Program in the state of Nevada: \*ACTION\***

The commission had a general discussion with NRCS about the FRPP program. Joe Sicking motioned for the Division staff to continue to have discussions with NRCS to see if this concept would be in the best interest of both agencies and to continue to update the Commission on any progress. Keith Whipple seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**H. Discuss the distribution of funds from the US Fish and Wildlife Service for Kelly’s participation on the Walker River Steering Committee: \*ACTION\***

The commission discussed the distribution of those funds and agreed that if possible those funds should be passed through to the Mason and Smith Valley Conservation Districts. Keith Whipple motioned to approve the distribution. Howard Glancy seconded. Motion passed.

- I.** *Discuss and decide role of the State Conservation Commission and the Division of Conservation Districts in a proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the Nevada Agriculture and Water Quality Group: \*ACTION\**

The commission agreed to accept and sign the new MOU. Joe Sicking motioned to approve the new MOU. Keith Whipple seconded. Motion passed.

- J.** *Discuss recent efforts to change the amount of sales tax on farm equipment.*

The commission discussed the reinstating of the former agricultural equipment tax rate of 2%. Joe Sicking motioned to have a letter sent to Doug Busselman in support of the reinstatement of the 2% agricultural equipment tax. Vance seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**IX. STAFF ITEMS –**

James Settlemeyer announced that he is running for State Assembly to represent District 38.

**X. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**XI. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING \*ACTION\***

The next commission meeting will be a teleconference at the Division of Conservation Districts office on August 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Misty Calestini  
Administrative Assistant II